

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01 CPR-01 /071 W

-----039080 220937Z /17

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1429

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9611

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CH, US

SUBJECT: GOP DIPLOMATIC CHANTES IN NEW YORK AND PEKING

1. SUMMARY. A SENIOR GOP DIPLOMAT HAS CONFIRMED THAT AMBASSADORS NARCISO REYES (PHIL UN MISSION) AND BENJAMIN ROMUALDEZ (PEKING) WILL EXCHANGE JOBS IN THE COMING WEEKS AND HAS ADDED TO THE SPECULATION THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO WILL RETIRE AT YEAR'S END. END SUMMARY.

2. DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) VERCELES TOLD POL COUNSELOR LAST NIGHT THAT THE REPORTED REYES-ROMUALDEZ SWITCH WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. AMB. NARCISO REYES WILL LEAVE NEW YORK AROUND JULY 31 AND WILL BE SUCCEDED SHORTLY THEREAFTER AS PHILIPPINE UN MISSION PERM REP BY BENJAMIN ROMUALDEZ, CURRENT GOP AMBASSADOR IN PEKING. REYES WILL PROCEED TO PEKING TO REPLACE ROMUALDEZ.

3. VERCELES INDICATED THAT ROMUALDEZ WOULD BE BRINGING A NEW TEAM WITH HIM TO NEW YORK AND EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT LOSS OF CONTINUITY. ACCORDING TO VERCELES, RODLOFO SEVERINO, JR., MINISTER-COUNSELOR
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IN PEKING, WILL BE ROMUALDEZ'S DEPUTY AT THE UN. JOSE SYJUCO, JR., SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO DFA UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES, WILL ALSO JOIN ROMUALDEZ' PERMANENT STAFF IN NEW YORK.

4. VERCELES EXPRESSED A SHADE OF UNCERTAINTY WHETHER SECRETARY ROMULO AND HE WOULD ATTEND THE UNGA THIS

FALL (BOTH HAVE ATTENDED EACH YEAR FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS). VERCELES INDICATED THAT ROMULO WOULD PROBABLY GO TO NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER BUT THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE HIS LAST HURRAH, WITH RETIREMENT COMING AT THE END OF THE YEAR. HE THOUGHT THAT ROMULO'S ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN MIGUEL CORP. LAST MONTH WOULD PROVIDE AN APPROPRIATE "WAY OUT" FOR THE SECRETARY. SHOULD THIS HAPPEN, HE SUGGESTED THAT NARCISO REYES WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED ROMULO AS SECRETARY.

5. COMMENT:

(A) IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE AROUND TOWN THAT THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN DISPLEASED ABOUT ROMUALDEZ' GROSS ABSENTEEISM FROM HIS PEKING POST. THEY SHOULD BE CONTENT WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF AN EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL SUCH AS REYES.

(B) VERCELES' THINKING ABOUT ROMULO'S COMING RETIREMENT IS CREDIBLE ALTHOUGH SUCH SPECULATION HAS ABOUNDED IN RECENT YEARS AND THE GENERAL CONTINUES TO HANG IN THERE. FORMER VP EMMANUEL PELAEZ IS MOST PERSISTENTLY RUMORED TO BE ROMULO'S REPLACEMENT. NARCISO REYES HOWEVER WOULD ALSO BE A VIABLE CANDIDATE. STULL

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
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